



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/505,193	08/19/2004	Maarten Johannes Schuurmans	SCH-00096	3711
30853	7590	03/22/2006	EXAMINER	
WARN, HOFFMANN, MILLER & LALONE, .P.C			CHERRY, EUNCHA P	
PO BOX 70098			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48307			2872	

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/505,193

Applicant(s)

SCHUURMANS, MAARTEN
JOHANNES

Examiner

EUNCHA P. CHERRY

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 15-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-11, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by van de Loo (US 6,322,221 B1).

van de Loo discloses a pivot assembly (Fig. 4) adapted to connect a mirror head and a mirror mounting bracket of a rear vision mirror assembly (Fig. 11), the pivot assembly comprising;

a spigot (11),

a plate (14),

an aperture in the plate journalled to the spigot (see 11 and 14),

a detent arrangement between the plate and spigot that changes from a locked position (17), where the plate is held with respect to the spigot, to a disengaged position by rotation of the plate with respect to the spigot (column 5, lines 44-45),

Art Unit: 2872

a spring (23) acting against the detent arrangement to hold it in the locked position, the spring yielding to allow the detent arrangement to move to a disengaged position as the plate is rotated with respect to the spigot (column 5, lines 52-59),

attachment arrangements (Fig. 3, 36 and 37) on both the spigot and plate that allow the spigot to be secured to either one of the mirror head or the mirror mounting bracket and the plate to be secured to either one of the mirror head or the mirror mounting bracket to enable the mirror head to be held, or rotated with respect to the mirror mounting bracket, and

a stop portion (18 and 19) associated with the spigot and adapted to engage with a stop arrangement on either the mirror head or the mirror mounting bracket to limit rotation of the mirror head with respect to the mirror bracket. The spigot includes a spigot plate which is spaced from and parallel with the plate (surface along where 17 are disposed on). The stop portion includes at least one projection (18) mounted to the spigot which when the pivot assembly is mounted between a mirror head and mounting bracket engages against the mirror head or the mirror bracket and which on rotation engages against the stop arrangement on the mirror head or the mirror bracket (column 5, lines 40-51). The detent assembly comprises a recess (plurality of 19) and a projection (plurality of 18). The spigot plate is

Art Unit: 2872

attached to the mirror mounting bracket and the plate is attached to the mirror head (see Figs. 10 and 11). The attachment arrangement further includes a plurality of threaded fasteners securing the plates to the mirror head and mirror mounting bracket (Fig. 1, see 13). The spring comprises a concave disc spring (see 23, no structure limitation presented by the applicant that preventing from this interpretation). The first plate is spigot (11), the second plate is a plate indicated as 41, and a shaft is 22 (see Fig. 4). The shaft (22) is tubular with the flanges (24) located at each end of the tubular shaft.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4, 5, 8, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over van de Loo in view of Stolpe et al (US 6,022,113).

Art Unit: 2872

van de Loo discloses the claimed invention as set forth above except for the projections are adapted to travel in semi-circular tracks or there are at least two projections being positioned diametrically opposite to each other. Stolpe et al discloses the projections that are adapted to travel in semi-circular tracks (Fig. 10) or there are at least two projections being positioned diametrically opposite to each other (Fig. 12, see plate 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt the projections of Stolpe et al for the purpose of engaging and disengaging the mirror head to mounting bracket precisely.

In combination, there are recesses and projections each comprise a pair of angle surfaces that form a v-shaped cross-section on a plane that is parallel to the axis (see Figs. 6 and 7 of Stolpe et al reference).

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over van de Loo.

van de Loo discloses the claimed invention as set forth above except the spigot plate and the plate are produced from stamped metal components. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use stamped metal for the plates for the purpose of massive production in short time period.

Art Unit: 2872

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 12-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: claims are allowable at least for the reason that the prior art does not teach or reasonably suggest the tabs that are engaged into the slots by inserting the tabs into the opening of the slot and moving the pivot assembly in a direction that is substantially transverse to the axis of the spigot to fully engage the tabs as set forth in the claimed combination.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

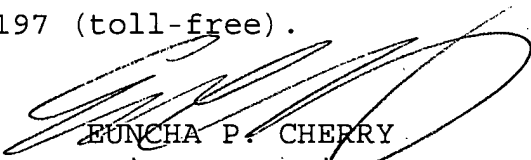
Gilbert et al discloses a spigot arrangement to engage and disengage the mirror head to the mounting bracket using projections and recesses.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EUNCHA P. CHERRY whose telephone number is 571-272-2310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00, alternate Fridays off.

Art Unit: 2872

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DREW DUNN can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



EUNHA P. CHERRY
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2872

3/19/06